27th February 1928]

Retrenchment in the Forest Department.

*1519 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased—

(*a*) to place before the House a statement showing the reduction in the higher and lower services of the Forest Department and the increase in the higher and lower services of the Revenue Department, consequent on the transfer of several forest areas to panchayats; and

(*b*) to state—

(1) whether the Government propose to have a special staff in the Revenue Department to supervise the work of the forest panchayats,

(2) whether it is proposed to have a separate Member on the Revenue Board for the purpose, and, if so, for what reasons, and

(3) whether it is a fact that at least one Member of the Revenue Board has not, on the average, more than one or two hours' work a day and does not stay in office while in Madras or on tour for more than one or two hours a day on the average, and if so, whether the Government contemplate the reduction of one Member of the Board and the corresponding establishment in the Board?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) (1) As regards the reduction in the higher services of the Forest department the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answers given on 26th August 1927, to clauses (*f*) and (*g*) of his question No. 164. In the lower services of the Forest department the permanent cadre of rangers has been reduced by 24. No report has yet been received from the Chief Conservator regarding the reduction in the other classes of subordinates. The following is the additional temporary staff now employed in the Revenue department for organizing and supervising the Forest panchayats:—

(1) One Forest Panchayat Officer on Rs. 300—850.
(2) Twenty-five Special Deputy Tahsildars on Rs. 150—200.
(3) One clerk on Rs. 65—85.
(4) One clerk on Rs. 40—55 plus Rs. 10.
(5) One steno-typist on Rs. 40—65 plus Rs. 35.
(6) One attender on Rs. 15—20.
(7) Three peons on Rs. 15—20.
(8) Twenty-five peons on Rs. 12—18.

(*b*) (2) No.

(3) The fact is not as the hon. Member suggests.

Corporation of Madras

Alleged irregularities in city municipal elections in September 1927.

*1520 Q.—BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he has received complaints from the candidates and voters of the divisions in which the election was held on 17th September 1927 and 19th September 1927 protesting against the action of the Commissioner in excluding as many as 70 voters from voting and other irregularities in the conduct of the election;

(*b*) whether he has inquired into the alleged irregularities, and whether any orders have been passed on the complaints above referred to;

(*c*) whether he will place a copy of the orders passed by the Government on the table of the House; and

(*d*) whether the Government will appoint a non-official committee to go into the alleged irregularities of the elections held in the City of Madras in last September, and prevent the repetition of such irregularities in future by taking the necessary steps therefor?

A.—(*a*) Copies of complaints made by a candidate and certain voters to the Commissioner of the Madras Corporation and to the polling officer in connexion with the election held on 17th September 1927 for the 19th division were received. There was no election on 19th September 1927.

(*b*) & (*c*) No action was taken on the complaints as the Government had no jurisdiction in the matter.

(*d*) The Government do not propose to appoint a committee as suggested. The question of issuing rules for the decision of election disputes is under consideration.

Education

Number of boarders in Government hostels.

*1521 *Q.*—Mr. C. Gopala Menon: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of boarders at present in each of the hostels maintained by the Government and the amount of expenditure annually incurred on them; and

(*b*) the number of boarders in the Boarding House now maintained by the Depressed Classes Mission, Mangalore, and the amount of grant sanctioned for the same this year?

A.—(*a*) Particulars in respect of the hostels maintained for the depressed classes and Kallars are given below:—

	Number of boarders.	Probable expenditure in the current year.
		RS.
(1) Paddison Hostel, Madras ...	55	10,500
(2) Government Depressed Classes Hostel, Masulipatam ...	50	8,470
(3) Kallar Hostel, Tanjore ...	90	8,190
(4) Boarding Home, Usilampatti.	161	6,860

Particulars regarding other hostels have been called for.

(*b*) The number of boarders in the home maintained by the Depressed Classes Mission, Mangalore, is 23 including two paying boarders. The Government have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 130 a month towards the cost of boarding of about 16 Adi-Dravida boys.